Review of agricultural research

335. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the state of agricultural research in India has recently been reviewed by a review committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) if so, what are the major findings of the review committee; and

(c) the action contempleted by Government to revamp the agricultural research system in the light of the recommendations of the review committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As at Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 329(b) to (d)]

(c) The recommendations are being processed for placing before Agriculture Minister for decision as deemed fit.

Foodgrains to drought affected States

336. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 28th December, 2002 the Centre announced drought relief of over nine lakh tonne of foodgrains, free of cost to six affected States for the next three months *i.e.* December, 2002, January and February, 2003;

(b) if so, what was the total quantity released to Andhra Pradesh and five other States;

(c) what are the total need of the States particularly of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) what criteria was followed in allocating the foodgrains to affected States; and

(e) whether Government have received the report of full utilization of foodgrains from the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Task Force Drought Management, headed by the Deputy Prime Minister, in its meeting held on 28th December, 2002 approved allocation of 8.49 lakh MTs of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for relief employment, including 3.15 lakh MTs to Andhra Pradesh.

(c) So far, 6.15 lakh MTs have been allocated to Andhra Pradesh against 25 lakh MTs demanded by the State (Till June 2003).

(d) Like other severely affected States, the Task Force has adopted a criterion of providing employment to one person from 50% Rural Below Poverty Line household for 10 days every month at a wage consisting of 5 kg. of foodgrains and the balance between the cost of foodgrains and the prescribed minimum wage being paid in cash. The cost of foodgrains is to be met by the Central Government while cash component is to be paid by the State Government.

(e) The State Governments have not reported fulll utilization of the foodgrains allocated to them so far.

National drought management code

337. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steering committee on agriculture has suggested farming a national drought management code for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government propose to put this code into action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.